

# Target “Hot Spots” in Mental Health and Addiction Services

*Updated May 11, 2012*

Governor Kasich’s Jobs Budget (HB 153) took bold steps to stabilize funding for mental health and addiction services after years of erosion, and it implemented management tools to improve the delivery of community behavioral health services to people in need. The budget created a single point of accountability for Medicaid-funded behavioral health services; elevated the responsibility for funding these services to the state, freeing up millions of local levy dollars for services to people who are uninsured and indigent; and established much-needed utilization-management controls and cost-containment tools for Medicaid to ensure the best and most efficient use of treatment dollars.

These reforms have challenged the state and local delivery systems to improve how they do business. During the Mid-Biennium Review (MBR), the Kasich Administration evaluated the progress of these reforms. Through this process, and in consultation with stakeholders, the Administration identified specific “hot spots” where targeted adjustments are needed.

- **Invest in housing for Ohioans with mental illness.** The Capital Bill proposes to invest \$10 million in community mental health projects, all of which will be dedicated to housing for people with a mental illness. Safe and supportive housing is critical to recovery and the current supply does not meet the demand in the mental health safety net. This would be the largest capital investment in community mental health since the 2001 Capital Bill.
- **Advance the fight against opiate abuse.** Governor Kasich has pledged to fight opiate abuse in every corner of the state. Ohio will provide Medicaid coverage of Medication Assisted Therapy (MAT) for an additional 21,000 Ohioans receiving services from ODADAS provider agencies. These services will be covered under currently approved procedure codes. This change will prevent unnecessary hospitalizations and other high-cost services.
- **(NEW ITEM) Target regional needs for non-Medicaid services.** ODADAS will provide county behavioral health authorities an additional \$3 million (\$1.05 million that was previously committed and \$1.95 million that was committed on May 11) to administer addiction treatment services for Ohioans with opiate and other addictions who are not eligible for Medicaid.
- **Target regional "hot spots" in mental health service capacity.** The MBR legislation includes \$3 million for targeted community mental health projects that provide the biggest impact for individuals who need services. Funds will be allocated by ODMH via a new approach that targets “hot spots” in the system, transcends traditional board areas and rewards local innovation and collaboration. This consumer-focused approach has earned the support of advocates representing consumers and families.
- **Identify additional areas for savings.** As part of the mid-biennial review process, the Office of Budget and Management asked each state agency to suggest areas for efficiency. ODADAS was exempted from any reductions. ODMH will cut \$200,000 from pre-admission screening expenses and \$1 million from hospital services. These cuts will be implemented without affecting services to individuals with mental illness.